

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Technical Services Branch
Documentation Approval and Supply Services Section
3209 Frederic Street
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July 8, 1996

F/IS:GJH

MEMORANDUM FOR: Users of USDC Voluntary Inspection Service
and Inspection Personnel

FROM: F/IS4 - Richard V. Cano/s/George J. Haines,
Jr. for

SUBJECT: Canada's Position on Artificial Color in
Cooked Shrimp

Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) recently distributed a bulletin advising interested parties of FDA's decision to allow the use of artificial colors in cooked shrimp. The bulletin further states the allowance is based on proper labeling of the cooked shrimp with the principal display panel indicating that the product is artificially colored cooked shrimp and the color agent is identified in the ingredients statement.

However of greater importance, the bulletin identifies the Canadian position on the use of artificial color in cooked shrimp. Per the Canadian regulations, artificial colors are not permitted in cooked shrimp sold in Canada.

Consequently, USDC Voluntary Seafood Inspection Program will not inspect or certify cooked shrimp destined for Canada that contain artificial color as defined by FDA's announcement and USDC Inspection Service Policy (see NOAA Inspection Manual 25, Part III, Chapter 7, Section 01, "Artificial Color in Cooked Shrimp.")

The bulletin from Canada's DFO is attached for your review and use.

Attachment:

No.	Date
24	21/06/96

FISH PRODUCTS
INSPECTION
MANUAL

MANUEL D'INSPECTION
DES PRODUITS
DU POISSON

Bulletin

TO: All Holders of the Fish Products Inspection Manual

SUBJECT: ARTIFICIALLY COLOURED COOKED SHRIMP - U.S.A.

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform manual holders of a recent change in the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) policy concerning the use of artificial colours on cooked shrimp.

Earlier this year the Office of Seafood, USFDA, decided to permit the use of an artificial colour, FD&C Red No. 40 (Allura Red in the Canadian Food and Drug Regulations), on cooked shrimp if the principal display panel indicates the product as being artificially coloured cooked shrimp and the colouring agent used is declared in the list of ingredients.

In accordance with the Food and Drug Regulations, colouring agents are not permitted on cooked shrimp sold in Canada. Therefore if product is imported and labelled as "artificially coloured", the lot is to be rejected for non-permitted additives. Also, if imported shrimp are suspected to contain a colouring agent, specifically allura red, the lot should be detained, sampled and analyzed for the presence of this agent.

David Rideout
Director General
Inspection Directorate